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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

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TM

DEATH AWAITS CHI AND BLACK JACK TARR IN THE
MURDER MANSION!



Now . . . the Amazing

ENERGIZEDTM SPIDER-MAN![®]

ENERGIZED

TO CLIMB! Attach the Spider Clamp, turn on Spiderman's energy belt and his web climber goes into action. He climbs doors. Walls. Windows. Fences. Automatically.

ENERGIZED

**TO PULL!
TO LIFT!**

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TO POWER HIS SPIDERCOPTER. As Spiderman sits in his Spidercopter, his power turns the rotor. And also sends out a powerful search beam. Spiderman flies by night.

Spider-man is 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall.

ENERGIZED

TO THROW LIGHT!

His Spider-Light cuts a beam through the night, lighting the way to safety . . . or to find the enemy!

The ENERGIZED

GREEN GOBLIN. Spiderman's enemy. He's energized to cut Spiderman's web, power his Goblin Ray gun. A formidable foe for Energized Spiderman.

Green Goblin comes with Web Cutter and Goblin Ray Gun.

ACCESSORY PACK, TOO! A Spider Trap, plus Spider Ray Gun. Rocket Camera. Just attach to Spiderman's Energy Belt!

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"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

TM

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

HOME ^{TO} DIE

"LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK: THE NIGHT AIR HOLDS A SAD AND SILENT TIMELESSNESS HERE, CAUGHT IN THE RUSHING SOUND OF WIND AND WAVE.

"BUT MORE THAN THAT, THERE IS A SENSE OF TIME-LOST EMOTION HAUNTING THIS PLACE, THIS 'MURDER MANSION' ... POSSESSING THE MAN WHO ONCE LIVED HERE.

"BLACK JACK TARR HAS SPOKEN LITTLE OF HIS PAST. PERHAPS THERE IS TOO MUCH TO TELL ... PERHAPS WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE IT.

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"BUT I SENSE NOW THAT HE MUST TRY."

WELL, I'M HOME AGAIN, CHINAMAN, AND I GUESS I SHOULD BE HAPPY... BUT I'M NOT.

THEN AGAIN, I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO GET BACK HERE.

*THREE DAYS PAST, IN LONDON: WE MET IN BUCKINGHAM PALACE...

"... AND TARR SPOKE WORDS CONVEYED FROM SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH...

-- CHINESE SCIENTIST NAMED CHOW WANTS TO DEFECT TO BRITAIN.

TOLD ME TO PICK A PARTNER, SO I'M MASKING YOU, CHINAMAN... JUST FOR THE COMPANY, AND PRECAUTION.

BUT FIRST, HE'S MAKIN' STOPS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. SIR DENIS WANTS ME TO GO TO THE STATES AND ESCORT CHOW BACK HERE.

I WON'T REALLY NEED A PARTNER-- WHAT WITH ALL THE BLOODY C.I.A. MEN SWARMIN' AROUND.

THEN WHY MUST EITHER OF US GO?

'CAUSE SIR DENIS IS AFRAID OF A HIT ON CHOW. GOT A PHOTO OF THE RED CHINESE TERRORISTS MOST LIKELY TO TRY IT.

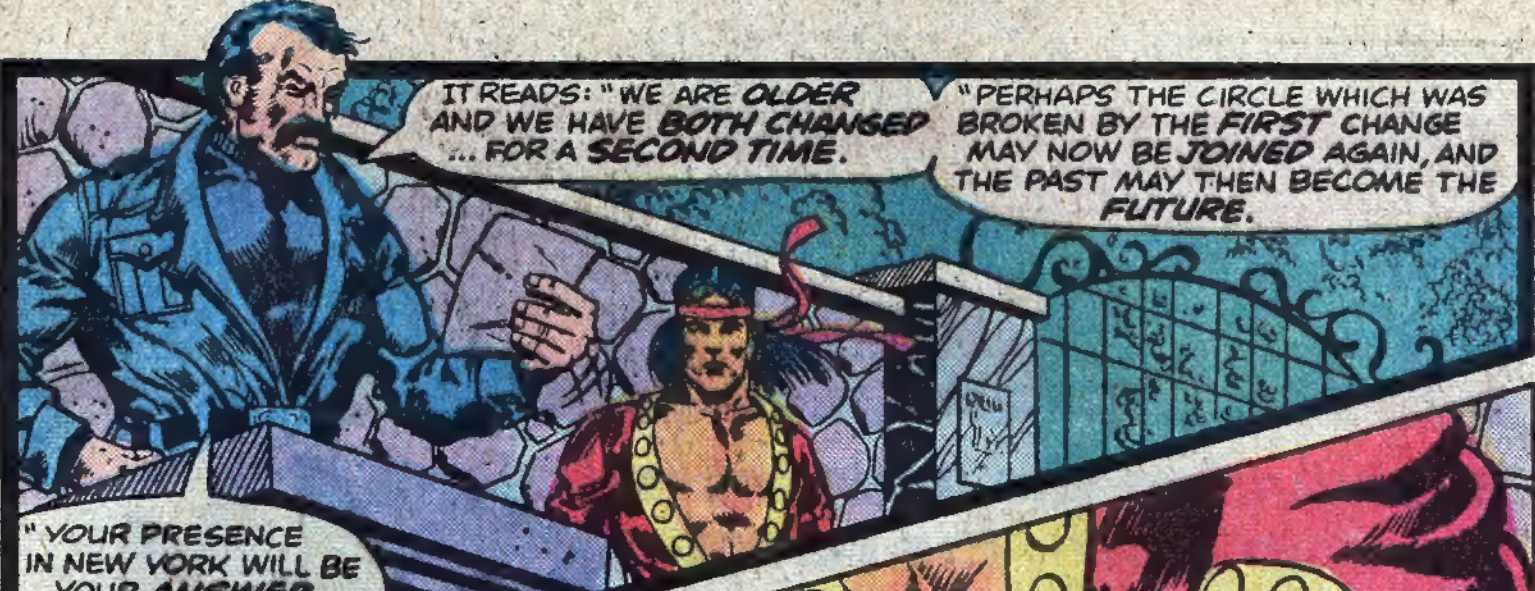
CALL THEMSELVES THE BLACK DEMON SECT.

I AGREED TO ACCOMPANY HIM.

NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, CHINAMAN, YOU WANNA KNOW THE REAL REASON FOR THIS TRIP -- WHY WE'VE COME A WEEK EARLY?

YOU MEAN THE STORY ABOUT--

NO, IT'S ALL TRUE-- BUT THE DAY BEFORE SIR DENIS POSED THIS MISSION TO ME, I RECEIVED A NOTE.



IT READS: "WE ARE OLDER
AND WE HAVE BOTH CHANGED
... FOR A SECOND TIME."

"PERHAPS THE CIRCLE WHICH WAS
BROKEN BY THE FIRST CHANGE
MAY NOW BE JOINED AGAIN, AND
THE PAST MAY THEN BECOME THE
FUTURE."

"YOUR PRESENCE
IN NEW YORK WILL BE
YOUR ANSWER.
MEET ME AT LIN-
COLN CENTER..."
AND SO
ON.

IT'S
SIGNED "ANNA",
CHINAMAN, IT'S SIGN-
ED BY THE ONLY WOMAN
WHO EVER BUSTED THROUGH
MY THICK SHELL AND GOT INTO
MY GUTS...

... AND THE ONLY
WOMAN WHO EVER
TORE MY GUTS
APART.

BELIEVE ME I'M
LOOKIN' FORWARD TO
IT... BUT I'M BLOODY
WELL SCARED TO
DEATH BY
IT.

I'M SUPPOSED TO
MEET HER IN THE CITY
TOMORROW-- FOR
THE FIRST TIME
IN THIRTY
YEARS.

ARE YOU
CERTAIN, TARR,
IT IS NOT A
TRICK?

COULDN'T BE.
NO WAY.

WHY
NOT?

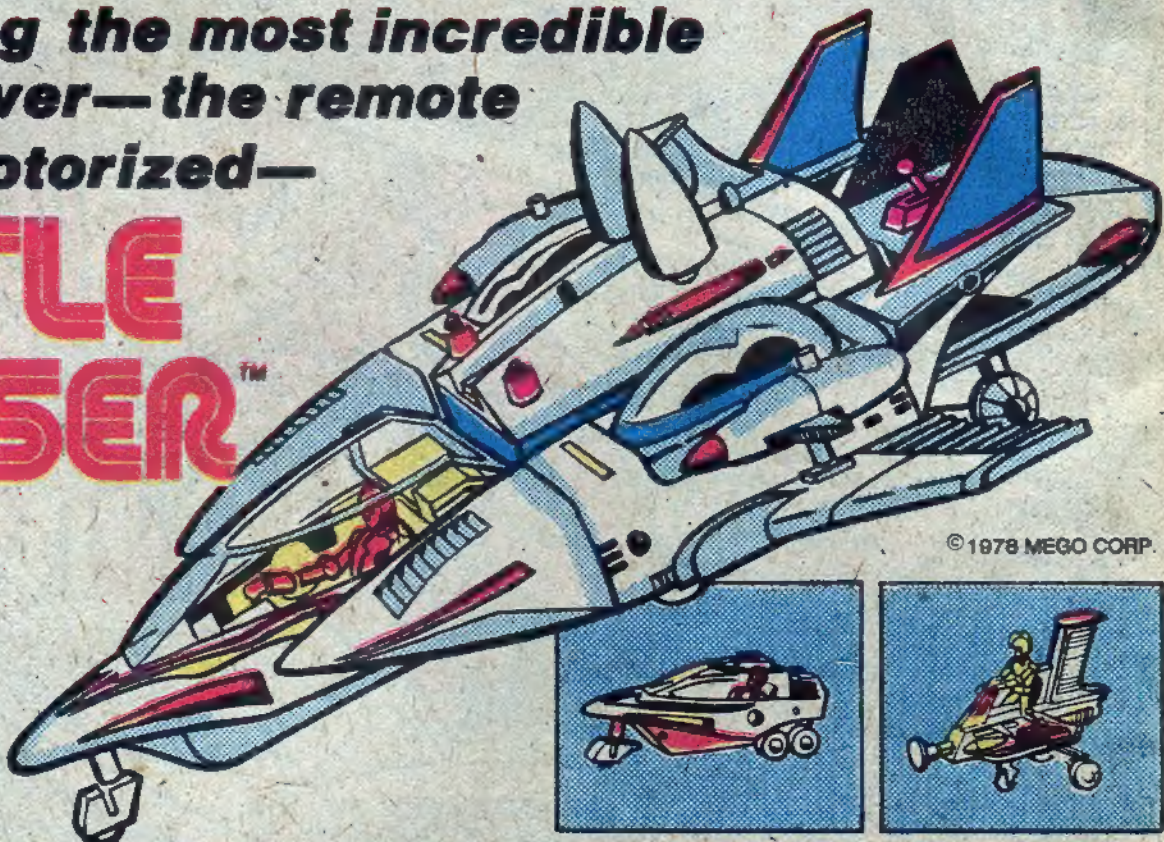
BECAUSE OF
THIS LOCKET,
CHINAMAN.

I GAVE IT TO
ANNA ON THE DAY
SHE KILLED A
PART OF ME.

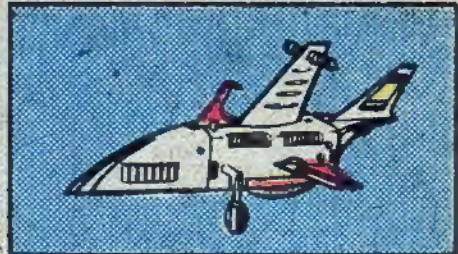
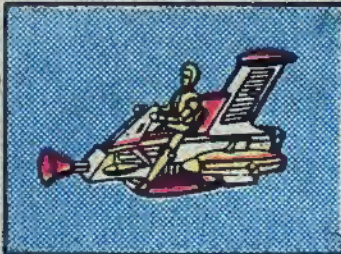
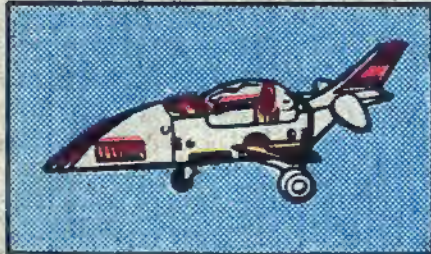
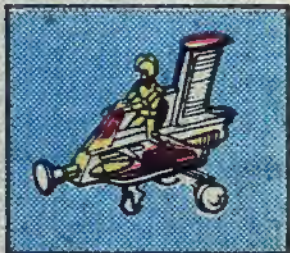
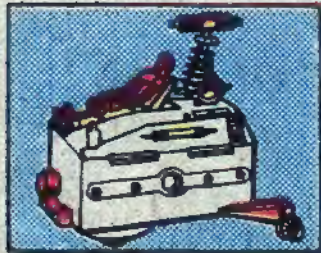
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IT'S GOT PICTURES OF US IN IT--
FROZEN THE WAY WE WERE
... WHEN WE WERE COM-
PLETELY ALIVE.

"WE BOTH WORKED FOR THE
BRITISH FOREIGN SER-
VICE IN HONG KONG, JUST
AFTER THE WAR ENDED.
OUR-- THE WORLD'S TROU-
BLES WERE BEHIND US.
IT WAS A BREATHLESS...
GIDDY TIME.

"WE GOT TO... KNOW EACH
OTHER. I HADN'T THE
MONEY FOR A RING, SO
I GAVE HER THE
LOCKET, PICTURES
AN' ALL.

"SHE CRIED,
CHINAMAN, SAID
SHE'D KEEP IT
FOREVER.

"THEN SHE RAN
AWAY, AND I NEVER
SAW HER AGAIN...

"... NOR DID THE
OFFICE. THEY SAID
SHE'D SIMPLY
VANISHED -- NO
EXPLANATION...

... BUT I CAN'T FOR-
GET THE TIMES BE-
FORE SHE KILLED A
PART OF ME-- WHEN
SHE MADE ME MORE
ALIVE... AND...

TARR...?

EH-- ? OH, SORRY,
CHINAMAN. SOME
MEMORIES ARE ...
STRONG.

IT IS
RAINING,
TARR.

OH... YEAH.
GUESS WE'D BETTER
GET INSIDE.

"I REMEMBER THIS PLACE WELL. SOME MEMORIES ARE STRONG... BUT ONLY BECAUSE THEY CAN- NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

Y'KNOW, CHINA- MAN, THIS IS WHERE WE FIRST RAN INTO EACH OTHER.

YES.

HARD TO BELIEVE I TRIED TO KILL YOU HERE.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

YES.

SLAM

WHAT THE--?!

THE DOOR-- AN' ALL THE WINDOWS-- SLAM- MIN' SHUT! SEALIN' THE PLACE INTO A TRAP!

SOMEONE'S HERE, CHINAMAN-- IN MY OWN MANSION! USIN' MY OWN GIMMICKS AGAINST ME!!

THE BLACK DEMON SECT?

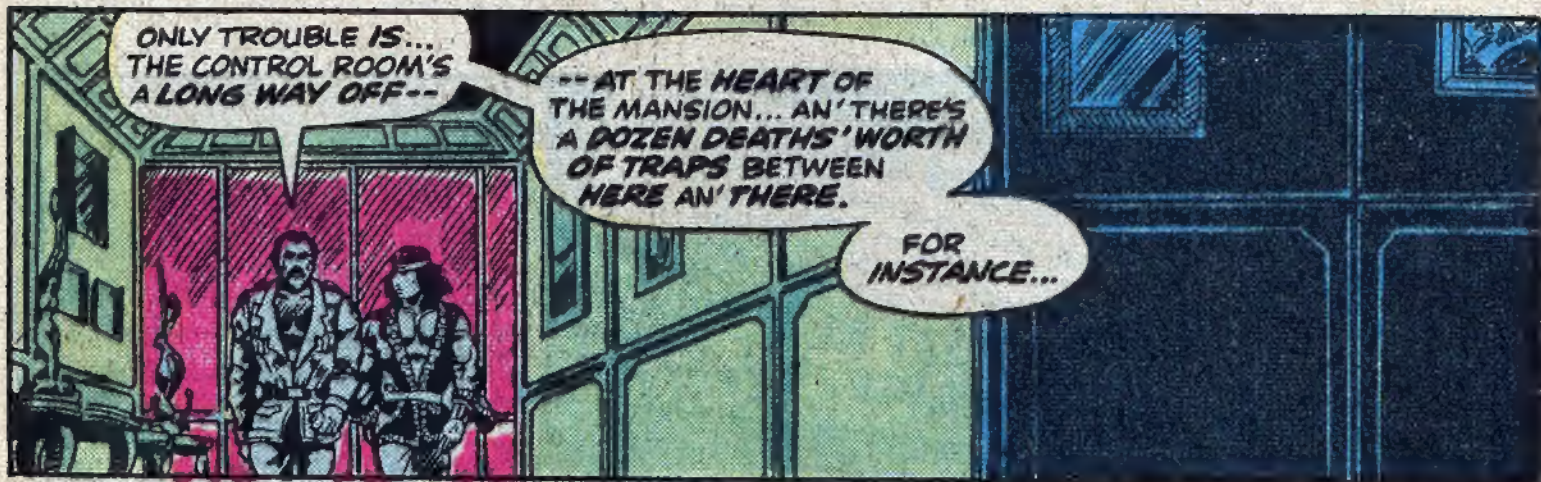
COULD BE, BUT IT DON'T MATTER WHO IT IS. IF THEY'VE GOT FULL CONTROL OF ALL THE BOOBY-TRAP MECHANISMS-- WE'RE IN FOR IT!

GOTTA REMEMBER THE LOCATION OF EVERY TRAP I INSTALLED IN THIS PLACE-- AN' IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I'M BEGIN- NIN' TO REAL- IZE HOW YOU MUST'VE FELT--

--WHEN ME AN' SIR DENIS FIRST SUCKERED YOU INTO THIS BLOODY MURDER MANSION.

NO WAY TO GET THROUGH THOSE STEEL PLATES OVER THE OUTSIDE DOORS AN' WINDOWS. OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO REACH THE CONTROL ROOM.



ONLY TROUBLE IS...
THE CONTROL ROOM'S
A LONG WAY OFF--

-- AT THE HEART OF
THE MANSION... AN' THERE'S
A DOZEN DEATHS' WORTH
OF TRAPS BETWEEN
HERE AN' THERE.

FOR
INSTANCE...



... IF I
REMEMBER
RIGHT--



YEP, INSTANT TRAP-
DOOR... INSTANT EX-
PLOSION... INSTANT
DEATH.



SOMEONE'S IN THE
CONTROL ROOM
ALL RIGHT...



... WHICH
MEANS
SOMEONE
IS--

"SOUNDS, STIR-
RING AIR."

-- RIGHT
BEHIND US,
TARR.

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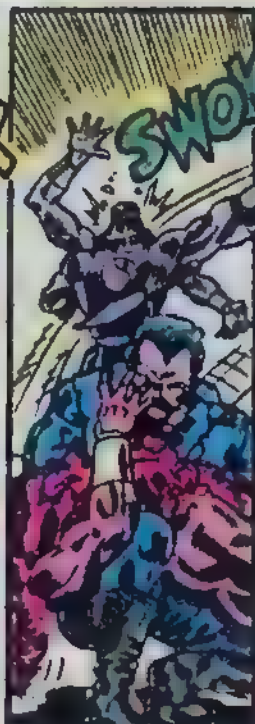
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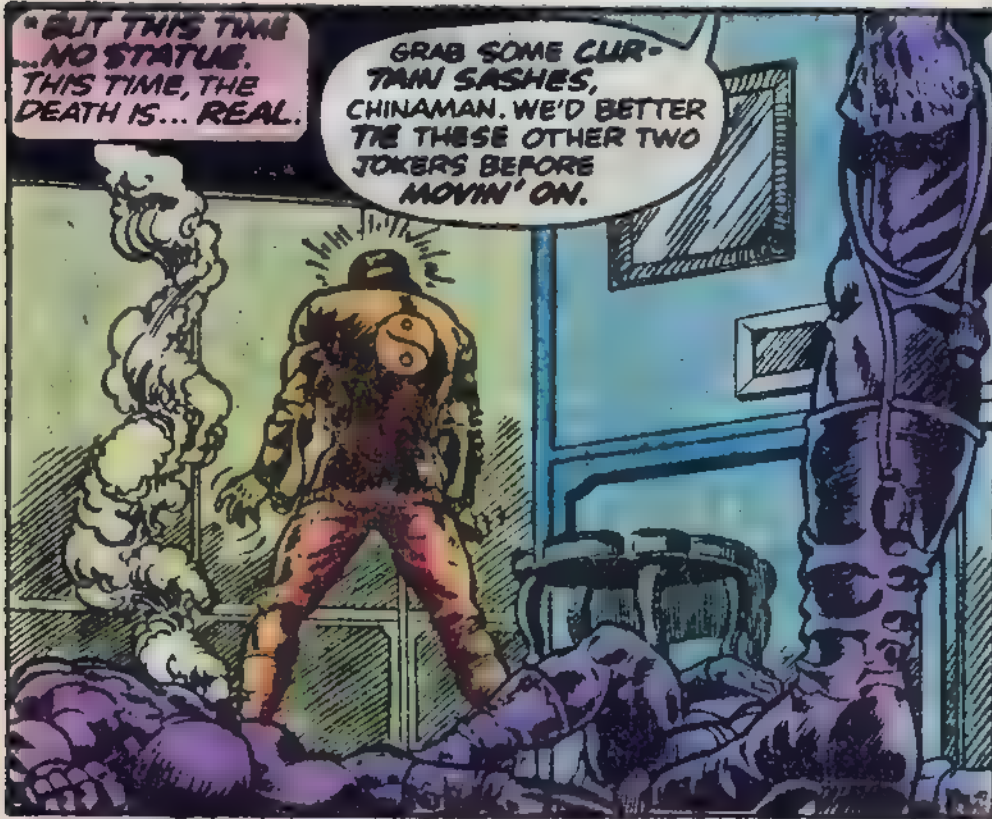
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"BUT THIS TIME
...NO STATUS.
THIS TIME, THE
DEATH IS... REAL."

GRAB SOME CUR-
TAIN SASHES,
CHINAMAN. WE'D BETTER
TIE THESE OTHER TWO
JOKERS BEFORE
MOVIN' ON.



"THE SCENT...
STILL LINGERS"

TAKE IT EASY
YOU DIDN'T
MEAN TO DO IT.

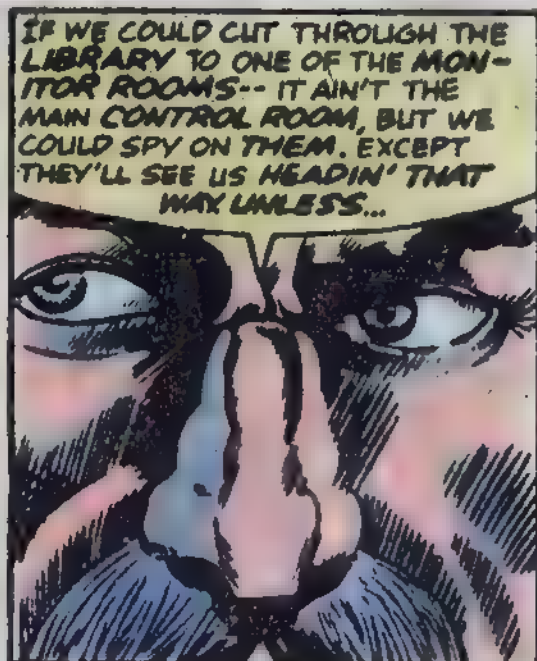
BESIDES,
HE DID.



"WAIT... A WHIRRING
SOUND."

YEAH, I SEE.
WE'RE BEIN'
WATCHED
EVERY STEP
O' THE WAY.

NO SOUND,
THOUGH... WHICH
GIVES ME
AN IDEA.



IF WE COULD CUT THROUGH THE
LIBRARY TO ONE OF THE MON-
ITOR ROOMS-- IT AIN'T THE
MAIN CONTROL ROOM, BUT WE
COULD SPY ON THEM. EXCEPT
THEY'LL SEE US HEADIN' THAT
WAY UNLESS...



IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THE
ELECTRICAL CABLES FOR THIS
FLOOR WERE LAID IN SOMEWHERE
AROUND HERE!



THINK YOU COULD GIVE
THAT PANELING A GOOD
SWIFT KICK, CHINAMAN?



SKATCH



"YES."

NOW, THE SPY-
CAMERAS ARE
ON A SEPARATE
CABLE SYSTEM.



... AND WE'RE
GONNA NEED
THAT SYSTEM
OURSELVES.

RIPPIN' THIS
CABLE WON'T CUT
THE CAMERAS--



-- BUT THE
CAMERAS IN
THIS ROOM WON'T
DO 'EM MUCH
GOOD IN THE
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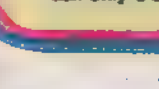
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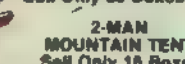
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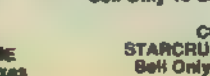
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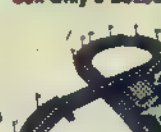
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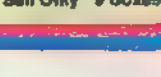
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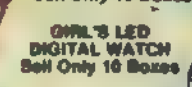
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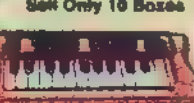
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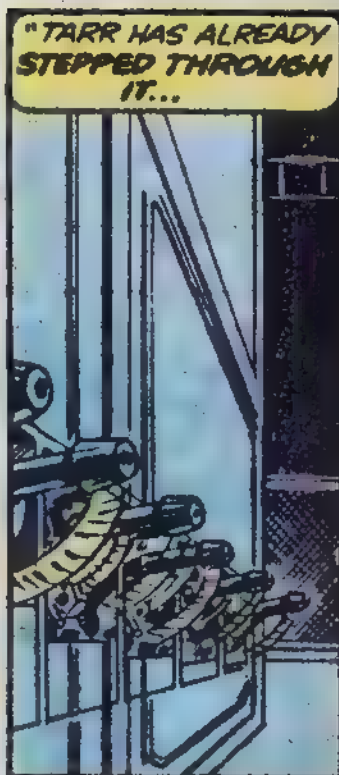


SURE IS A CREEPY OLD JOINT IN THE GLOOM. SORRY AGAIN FOR WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH BACK THEN.



COME ON. THIS WAY IS SAFE.

"A BEAM OF LIGHT NEAR THE FLOOR.



"TARR HAS ALREADY STEPPED THROUGH IT...

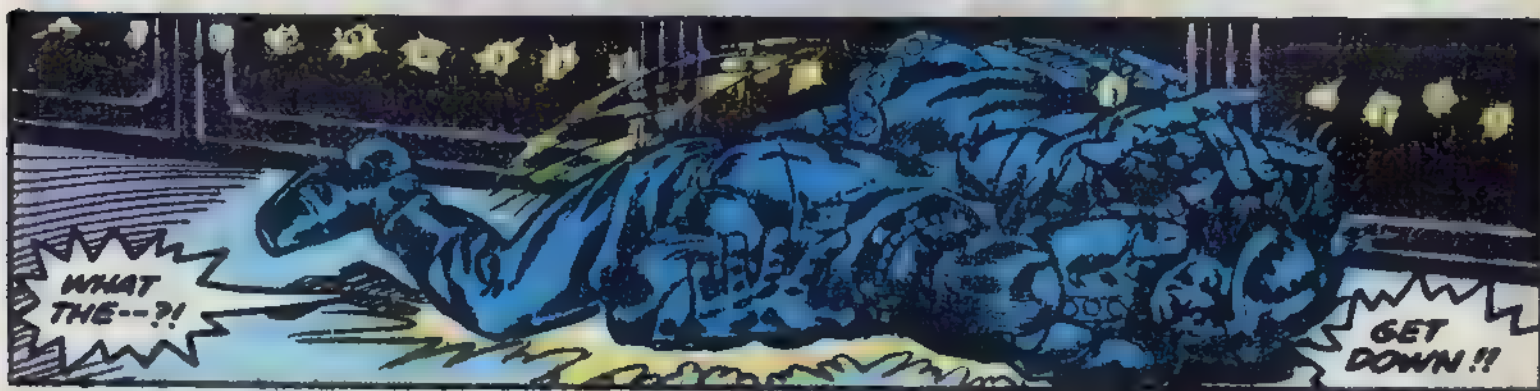


"...TRIGGERING OPENINGS IN THE WALL, AND--

TARR!!



BRRRT



WHAT THE--?!

GET DOWN!!



MACHINE GUNS??



BUT I DIDN'T INSTALL THEM! THEY AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!!

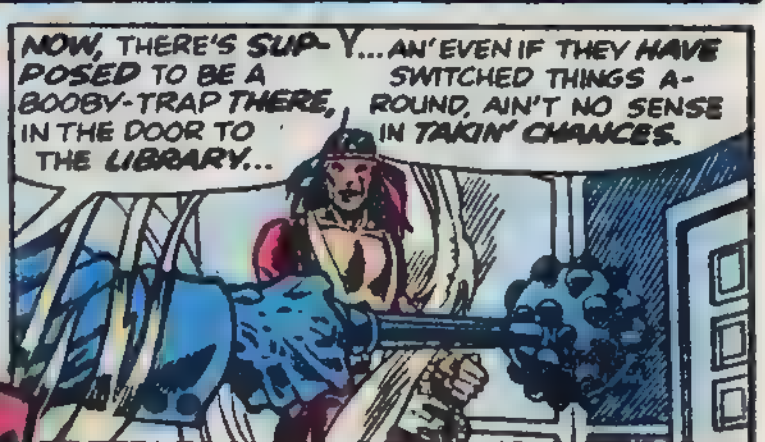
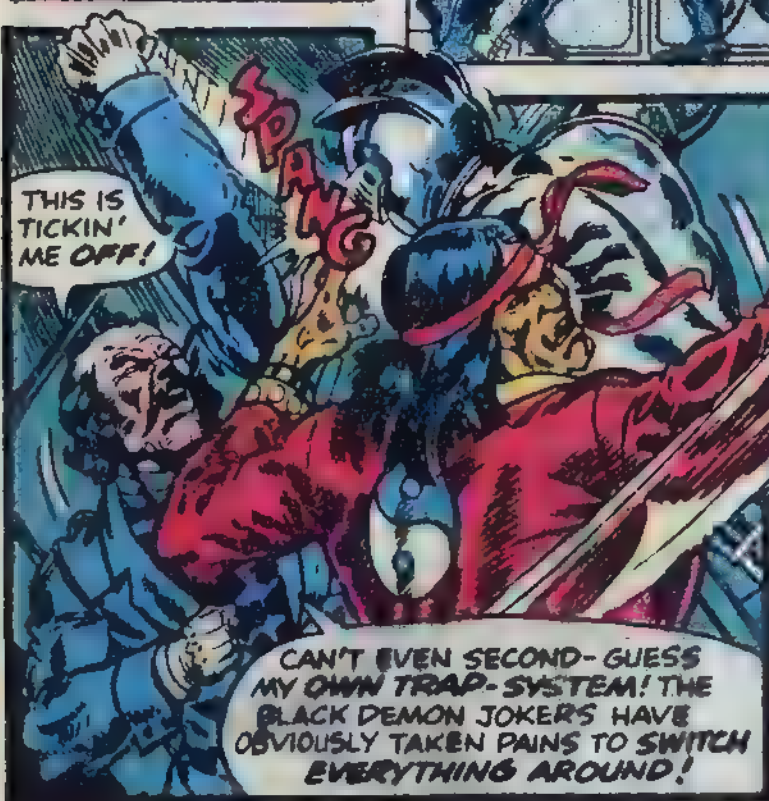
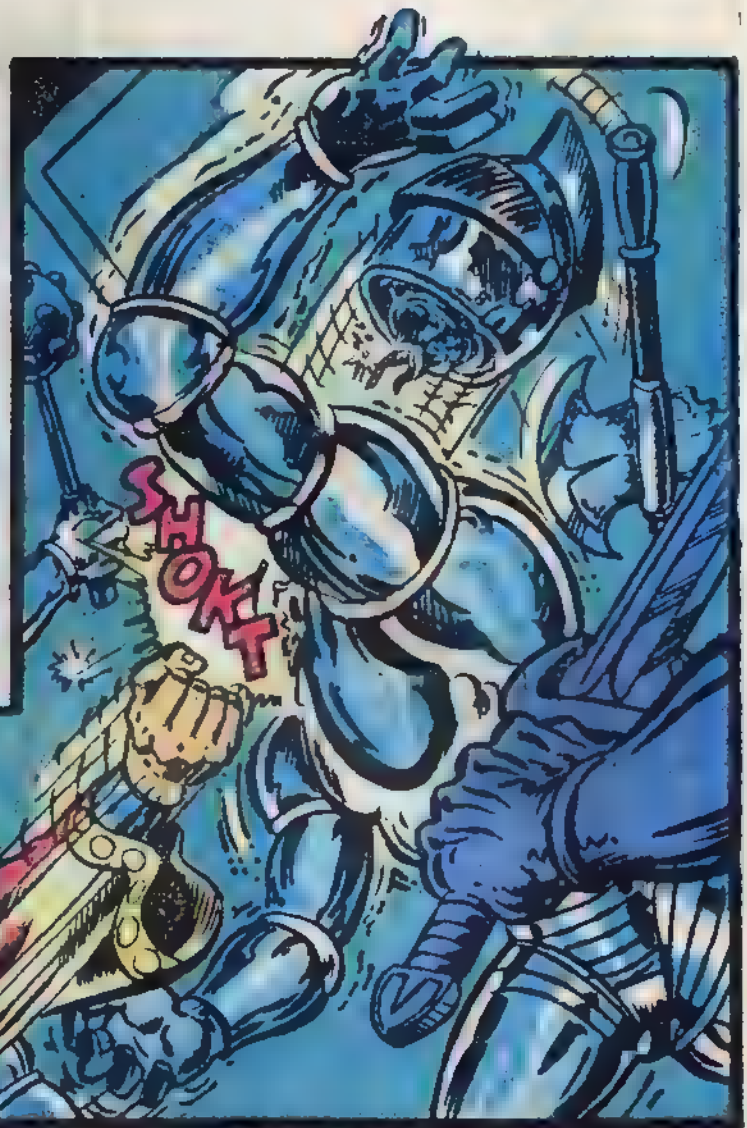
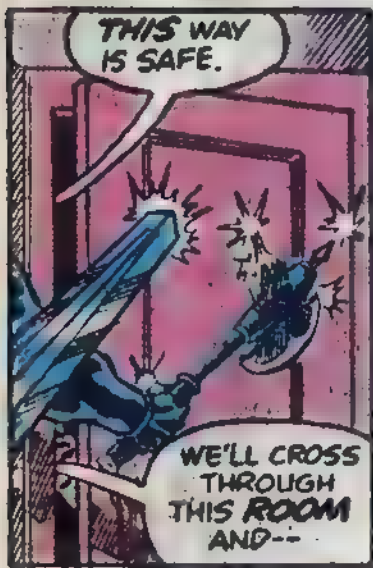
THIS IS SOME BLOODY NUMBER OF A SET-UP, CHINA-MAN. MUST'VE BEEN PLANNED FOR A LONG TIME, IF THEY'VE ADDED GIMMICKS OF THEIR OWN.

KEEP CRAWLING, TARR, WE'RE ALMOST BEYOND THE LAST ONE.



AWRIGHT, WE MADE IT-- BUT DON'T GO DOWN THAT CORRIDOR. THERE'RE MORE OF THOSE SUITS-OF-ARMOR ROBOTS DOWN THERE...

...THE ONES THAT ALMOST GOT YOU.



HEEL, SUPERDOGS!!! IT'S THE INFAMOUS MILK DUDS SUPERDUDS SWEEPSTAKES!



Superduds of the Universe, take heart! At last our time has come. No longer will we suffer the scorn of those who would mock our cause.

No longer will we bear the insults of the sniveling superavengers. Groveling glory-seekers! They have their sweepstakes, and we shall have ours. The Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes, to be precise. Just fill out the entry blank, then mail it back to us. And strike a blow for Superduds everywhere.

A MASTERFULLY MENACING SCHEME!

To all Milk Duds, Slo Poke, and Black Cow eaters, we offer an opportunity that the misguided followers of superheroes cannot share.

And you shall hear all about it, in due time.

But first, have patience while we tell you of our grand design.

Our design for total domination of the Famous Clark Bar Superhero (Hal) Sweepstakes. We shall insist that your entry be accepted in their Sweepstakes. To give you an equal chance at the prizes they offer to their toadies. We shall use force, if necessary.

YOUR DATE WITH DESTINY!

Now for the spoils of victory. The rich rewards of ruthlessness. If you should be the first-prize

winner, you and your family (limit of four people) will be flown to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

You'll be taken on a personal tour of the Marvel Comics offices, where an artist will draw your image into an upcoming issue of your favorite Marvel Comic.

You'll be part of the action in a famous superhero adventure.

You'll be allotted time for such frivolous activities as sightseeing. And, when your comic adventure is published, you'll get 15 copies to bestow upon your family and fraudulent friends.

They'll be awestruck to know a famous person like you.

If you happen to be one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your own Famous Superhero (Bah! Dolts!) or Infamous Superdud wristwatch.

You'll have your choice of the cowardly countenances of such witless wonders as Wonder Woman, Superman, Spider-Man, or Batman. Or, for

the enlightened among you, the Joker. The full-color Swiss-made watches would normally sell for \$19.95 to \$23.95.

If you should be one of the 100 third-prize winners, you'll get a year's subscription to the DC or Marvel comic of your choice. The Incredible Hulk, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Ms. Marvel, Captain America, Red Sonja, Justice Society, Plastic Man, Thor, you name it. Even that precious poppet, Little Lulu.

GRAND AND GLORIOUS SUPERDUD PRIZE!

And now, faithful followers, we come to the opportunity we promised earlier. In addition to drawings for all those prizes you've just been reading about, everybody who dares to enter the Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes



will automatically be entered in a special drawing. And ten of those people, maybe even you, are going to win splendid Schwinn ten-speed bicycles.

Of course, wrappers from Milk Duds, Slo Poke or Black Cow can also help you get all kinds of super premiums. All of the details are in the Famous Clark Bar ads.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill out the entry blank—the rules (alas, we do have rules) say you must print—and mail your entry before November 1, 1978.

It's so easy, even a simple-minded super-do-gooder could do it.



THE INFAMOUS MILK DUDS SUPERDUDS SWEEPSTAKES!

P.O. Box 55 Chicago, Illinois 60677

RULES:

1. To enter, type or print clearly your name, address and zip code on this official entry blank, or on a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper. You can enter as many times as you want, but each entry must be mailed separately.
2. With each entry, send one wrapper from any Holloway or Clark candy product, or the words "MILK DUDS" printed on a separate piece of 3" x 5" paper. (You can send wrappers from Milk Duds, Slo Poke, Black Cow, Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light or Peanut Butter Log.)
3. Send entries to Superduds Sweepstakes, Box 55, Chicago, Illinois 60677.
4. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 10, 1978.
5. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted by H. Olsen & Company, an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final.
6. Prizes are non-transferable, and substitution of prizes is not allowed. Only one prize to a family. The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.
7. This sweepstakes is open to all U.S. residents, except employees (and their immediate families) of Beatrice Foods, its advertising agencies, and H. Olsen & Company. Void in Missouri, and wherever else prohibited by law. Subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations.
8. If you want a list of winners, send a separate stamped, self-addressed envelope to Box 200, Chicago, Illinois 60677.

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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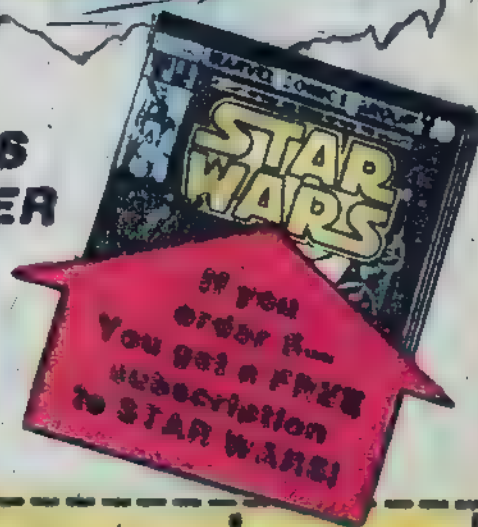


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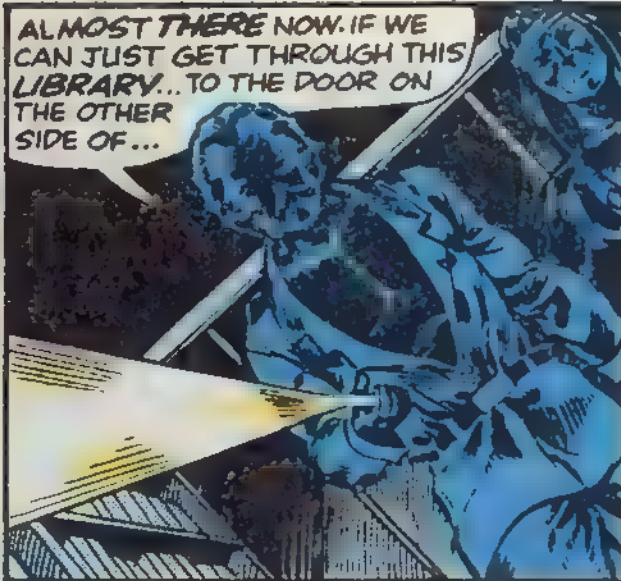
87 MCBA



STEP OVER THE
GUILLOTINE BLADE,
CHINAMAN--



-- AND TRY TO
FORGET I INSTALL-
ED IT FOR YOUR
NECK.



ALMOST THERE NOW. IF WE
CAN JUST GET THROUGH THIS
LIBRARY... TO THE DOOR ON
THE OTHER
SIDE OF ...



EH--?



OH, MY
GOD!!

NO! NO,
IT CAN'T BE!!



WHAT IS IT, TARR?
WHAT'S *WRONG*?

THAT *PAINTING*,
CHINAMAN-- I
DIDN'T PUT IT
UP THERE!
NEVER *SEEN* IT
BEFORE IN MY
LIFE...



... BUT-- BUT
IT'S A POR-
TRAIT OF...
ANNA.



*THE
PAINTING
EXPLODES--

--HURLING WILD
DEMONS!



ANNA'S PICTURE! THEY--
THEY RIPPED THROUGH IT.

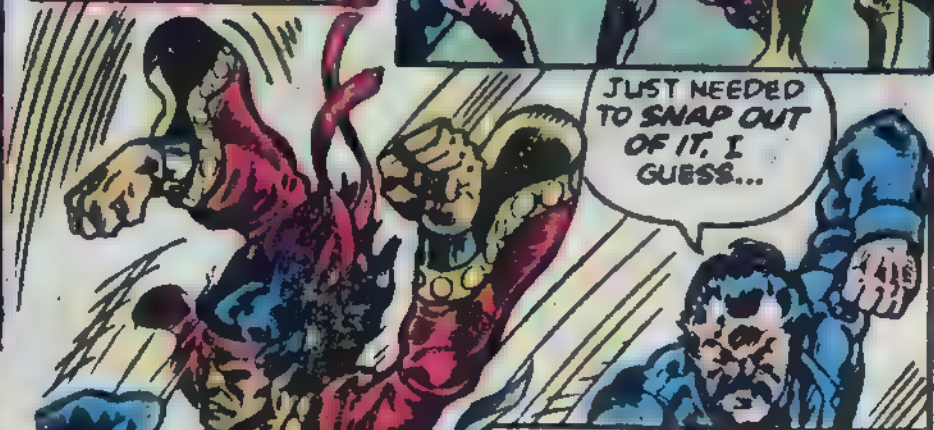
FORGET THE
PICTURE,
TARR!



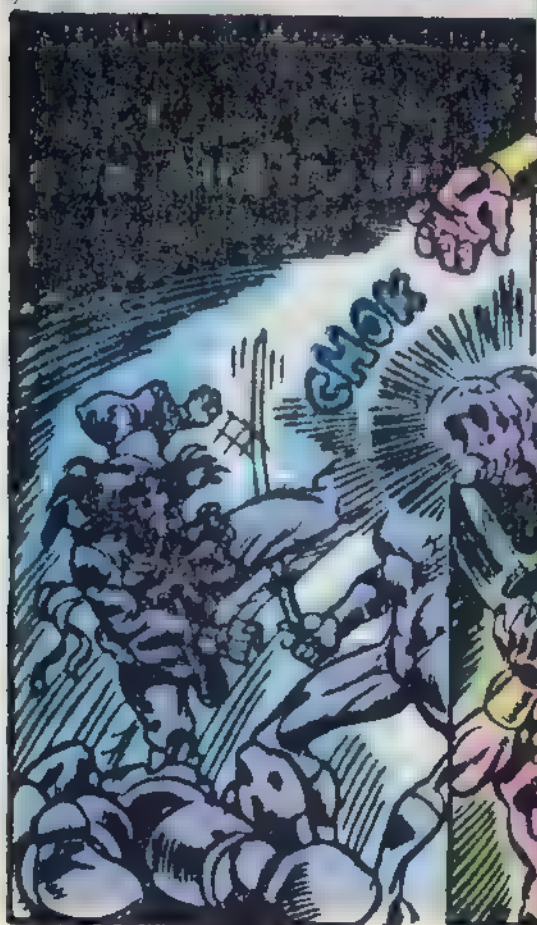
THEY MEAN TO
SLAY US!!



I'M HERE
NOW,
CHINAMAN.



JUST NEEDED
TO SNAP OUT
OF IT, I
GUESS...



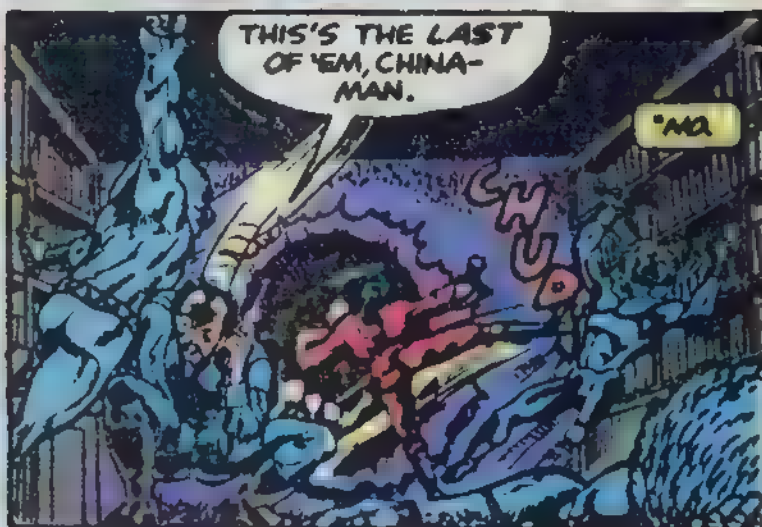
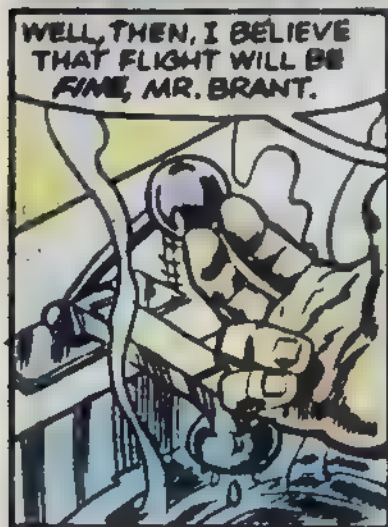
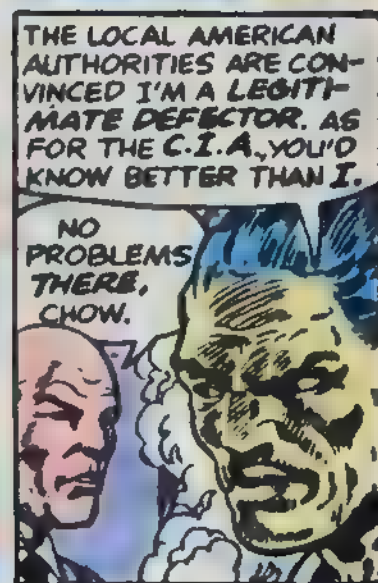
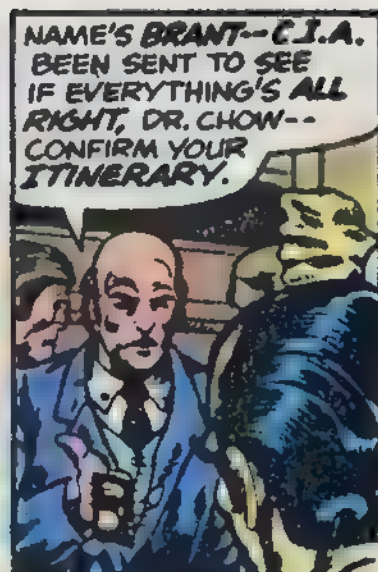
CHOP



FRANK



... SO'S I
COULD SLAM
INTO THESE
FREAKS!



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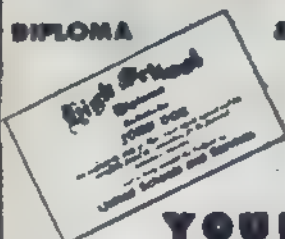
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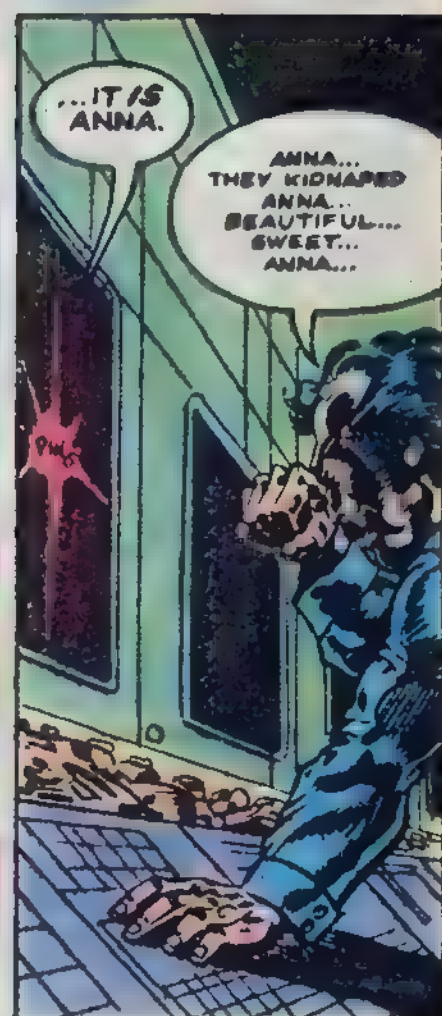
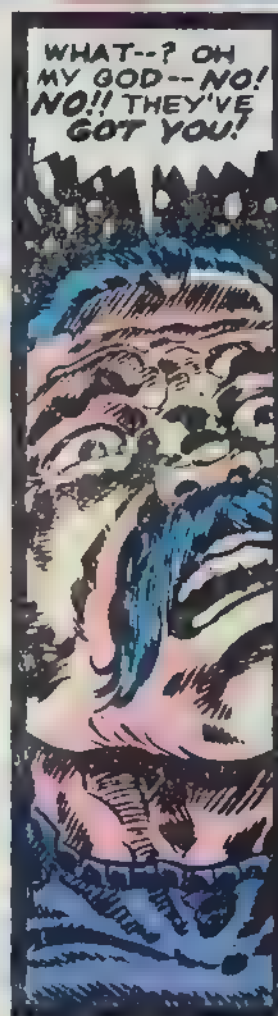
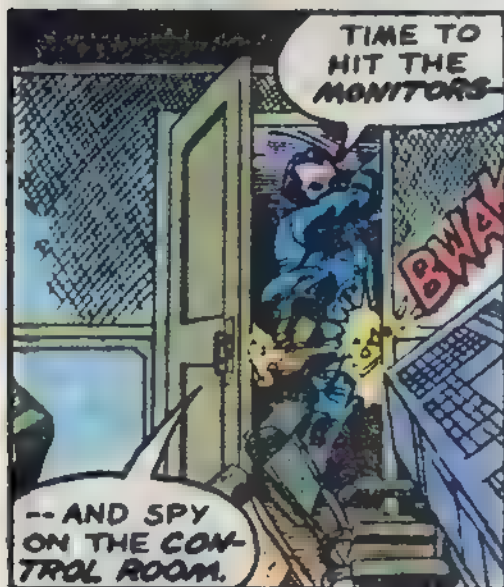
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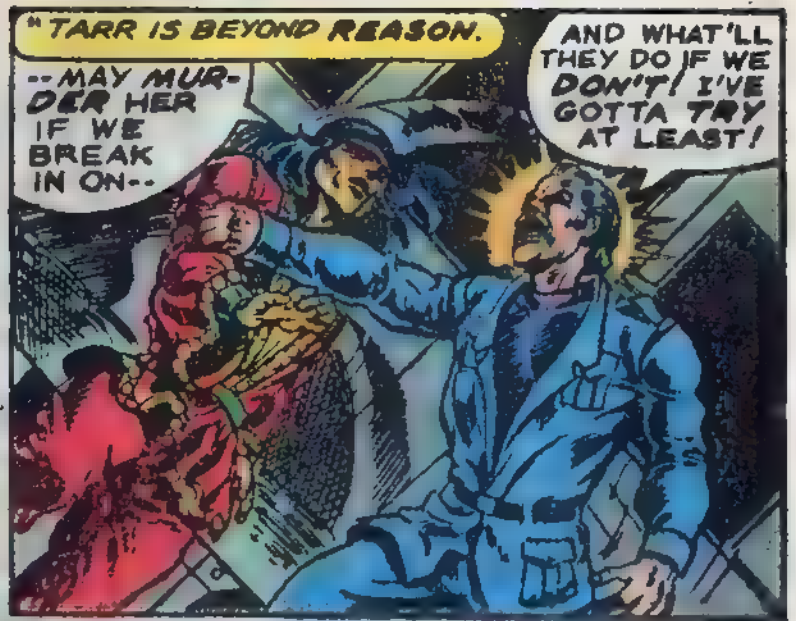


ALL RIGHT--
HURRY NOW. IT'S
TIME TO END
THIS CHARADE.



IF I KNOW JACK
TARR HE'LL WASTE
LITTLE TIME
GETTING
HERE.

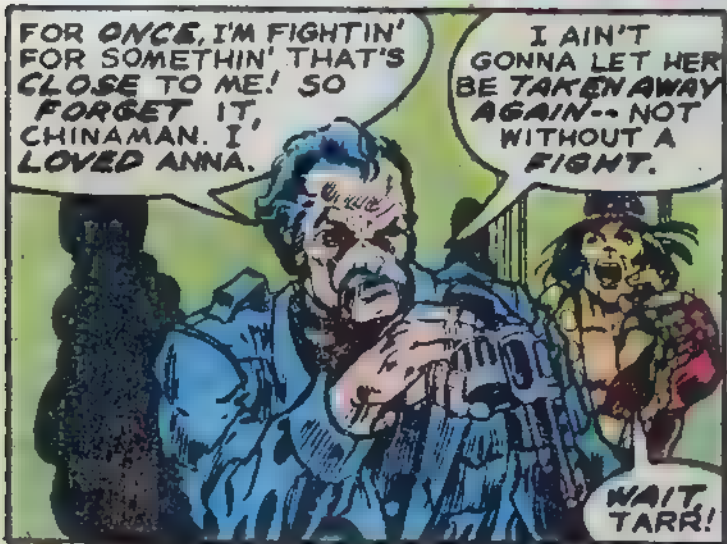
CUT
THE
LIGHTS



"TARR IS BEYOND REASON.

--MAY MUR-
DER HER
IF WE
BREAK
IN ON--

AND WHAT'LL
THEY DO IF WE
DON'T! I'VE
GOTTA TRY
AT LEAST!



FOR ONCE, I'M FIGHTIN'
FOR SOMETHIN' THAT'S
CLOSE TO ME! SO
FORGET IT,
CHINAMAN. I'
LOVED ANNA.

I AIN'T
GONNA LET HER
BE TAKEN AWAY
AGAIN-- NOT
WITHOUT A
FIGHT.

WAIT
TARR!



"BUT HE WILL NOT
WAIT. INSTEAD HE
RACES DOWN
HALLS TO--



NO ONE
HERE.

NOW.

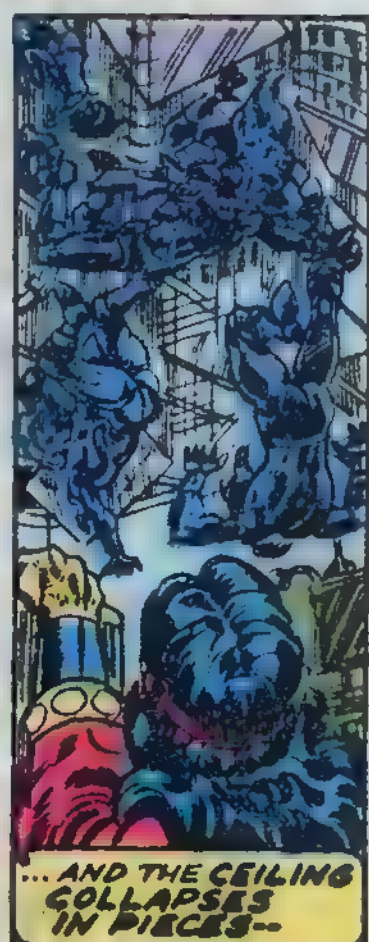


DIVE! THEY'RE UP IN
THE CEILING PANELS!



HANG ON! WE MAY BE
IN AN AMBUSH BUT
THERE'S ONE THING
THEY BLOODY WELL
DIDN'T COUNT ON...

"TARR
STABS A
SWITCH...



...AND THE CEILING
COLLAPSES
IN PIECES--



--UNDER THE
WEIGHT OF
FALLING
DEMONS.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Well, I guess there isn't a comicbook fan or a television watcher who hasn't caught a few of the Spider-Man or Hulk prime-time TV shows by now. In the past few months I've received countless letters asking for my own opinion of these Marvel media cultural breakthroughs! And, since you've bothered to ask, the least I can do is help to obfuscate the issue with my own cryptic comments and cogent critiques. Naturally, as you may have guessed, I'd be happier if the shows hewed closer to our original comicbook story lines; and yet, I'm aware of the reasons which caused the networks and the producers to make so many changes. Basically, they were afraid the shows would seem too "comicbooky" — they were presented exactly the way you see the stories in our own magnificent mags. The changes in both Spidey and the Hulk were made in an effort to mold the shows closer to the format of most other TV mystery and action dramas. My own personal feeling is that it would be better to take the opposite approach and make them as different as possible. However, I must say that both Universal Studios (the producers of the Hulk), and Danchurch Productions (who do Spider-Man), have constantly striven to make their series intelligent, adult, and true to the basic spirit of the magazines themselves. I'm sure you can tell that neither series is done in a "camp" manner, nor have our characters been burlesqued or treated in a comball way. Both the acting and direction have been first-rate, and production standards have been as high as any other prime-time show. Since I function as consultant to our TV series, the producers and I really do discuss the stories and kick all sorts of ideas around, and I'm happy to tell you that they're slowly but surely beginning to come around to our way of thinking. As more and more Marvel shows begin to hit the airwaves, you'll notice that they'll begin to get closer to the original flavor and feeling of the offbeat Marvel style. And now, a word about another new Marvel TV project. Starting early in September (consult your TV listings for exact time), NBC will be presenting the Fantastic Four in cartoon form on its network Saturday mornings. Most of the basic stories will be Bullpen produced, and the animation is being done by the award-winning DePatie-Freleng Studios who also bring you the Pink Panther and many other famous cartoon series. Give 'em a look-in — we think you'll like what you see. In future issues, I'll tell you more about our burgeoning television and movie plans, but now it's time to get back to the real world — namely the pages of mighty Marvel!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! We told him not to try it, but he wouldn't listen! With a resolute shrug of his broad shoulders, Gigantic JIM SHOOTER began almost a year ago to guide the Avengers through a ten-part epic saga intended to stand as a true achievement in comics art. Now, many trials, tribulations, production problems and I-told-you-so's later, despite all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune cast by unrelenting Fate, at last it's finished! As it turned out, it took practically the whole blamed Bullpen pitching in to pull it off, but Big Jim managed to coordinate the effort, somehow, and preserve the creative thrust of the tale as originally conceived. So let the banners fly and the trumpets blare, for issue #177 of THE AVENGERS marks the soul-searing conclusion of the story begun in issue #167! We've already read it, and believe us, it's a shocker! In fact, we figure there's bound to be more than a little controversy over the startling climax of this magnum opus. Some say Shooter has dared too much, even for mighty Marvel, but, as always, the final verdict is in your hands. Pick up your copy, (it's on sale now), and tell us what you think.



ITEM! Everyone suspected it was coming all along, and yet Delightful DAVE COCKRUM and Pulchritudinous PATY still managed to surprise most of the Bullpenners with the announcement of their wedding April 28th! Dave assured us that the issue of Ms. MARVEL he's pencilling will come in right on time anyway, but ace Production Chief, Liltin' LENNY GROW is arranging a week's extension just in case! After all, Dave can be excused for having other things on his mind for a while, and besides, judging from the overwhelming raves his previous Ms.M. effort brought, this one should be worth the wait! If you hurry down to your newsstand, if you're lucky you may still be able to latch on to issue #20, and if you're smart, come early September you'll be first in line among the art lovers to pick up the next spectacular issue! Don't miss it!

ITEM! Granted, every month seems to be stuffed full of special events and super surprises from the House of Ideas, but this little happening has to be the biggest yet! Marvel Comics passes a Major Milestone this month with issue #200 of the magazine that started it all — THE FANTASTIC FOUR! Issue 200, on sale the third week in August, also marks the 17th anniversary of the advent of the Mighty Marvel Age of Comics. To celebrate, we've pulled out all the stops and made this landmark issue twice the normal size with double the action and thrills. Marvelous MARV WOLFGAN, Creative KEITH POLLARD and Joltin' JOE SINNOTT crafted it with care and respect, and all of us at Marvel are very proud of their fine effort. More, we're proud of what it represents — namely the hard work, love, and caring that has brought us all so far since the glorious day that Stan and Jack gave form and substance to their epochal ideas. To them, and to you our faithful following, without whom we'd be nothing, our deepest thanks, and our promise to carry on the fine tradition left to us. If you can only buy one comic this month, join our celebration and plunk down your 60¢ for F.F. #200 — still the World's Greatest Comics Magazine!

ITEM! The world has watched and waited in breathless anticipation to, these several months since DAVID MICHELINIE arrived on the Marvel scene, for the Deliberate One to pick up his first regular series. Now it can be told that with issue #116 of IRON MAN, on sale now, Dafe joins John Romita, Jr., and Bob Layton to chronicle the monthly adventures of our favorite Armored Avenger! We've learned to expect the unexpected from Dave, but we have to admit that he absolutely blew our minds on page seven with a startling plot development that had us checking to see if we weren't reading an issue of WHAT IF...? by mistake! Nope, it's real, friends, and believe us, it's something you've got to be there to believe. So be there!

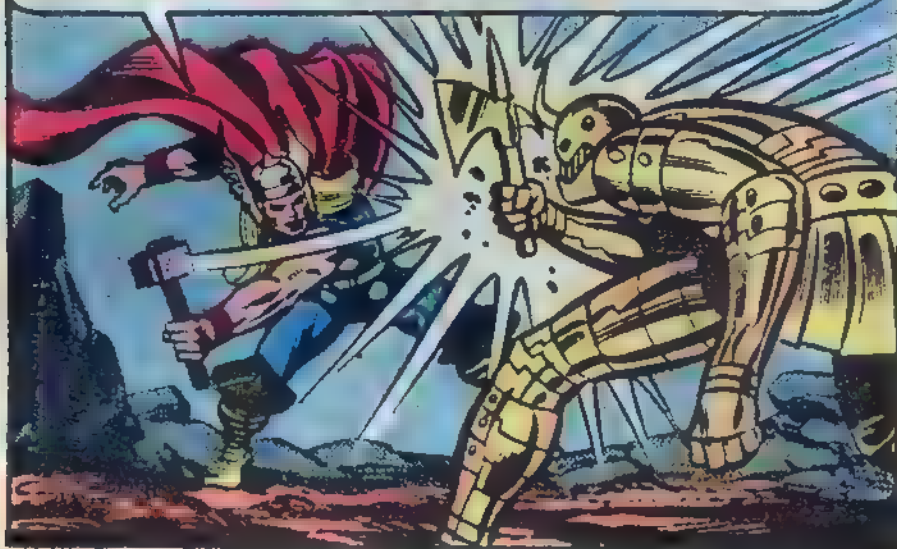
ITEM! The other day, Earnest ERNIE CHAN stopped by the hallowed halls bearing an enormous envelope full of inked CONAN pages. As the minions of Marvel Assembled oohed and ahed in admiration, Ernie quietly mentioned that, by the way, he'd have been in a bit sooner except for the arrival on April 25th of his new baby girl, CLEO CARON CHAN! After proper fuss and we all allowed as to how it was okay to be a bit late with the Conan job under the circumstances, especially since, in a month or so, we figure Captivatin' Cleo will be inking backgrounds for her diligent Daddy!

ITEM! By the way, for those who are wondering where Boisterous BILL MANTLO has vanished to after his stellar stint on Iron Man, rest assured that he hasn't gone far. Bill set Iron Man aside to work with Magical MIKE GOLDEN on our latest and possibly greatest project — THE MICRONAUTS! You'll be hearing lots more about them very soon!

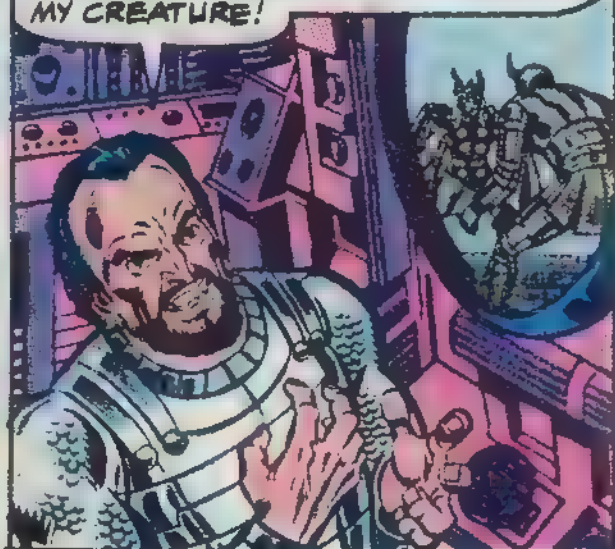
As this column was being written, word arrived that on May 7th, long-time DC Comics editor Mort Weisinger passed away. To his family, friends, our sincerest condolences.

THOR--IN GOOD OVERCOMES evil!

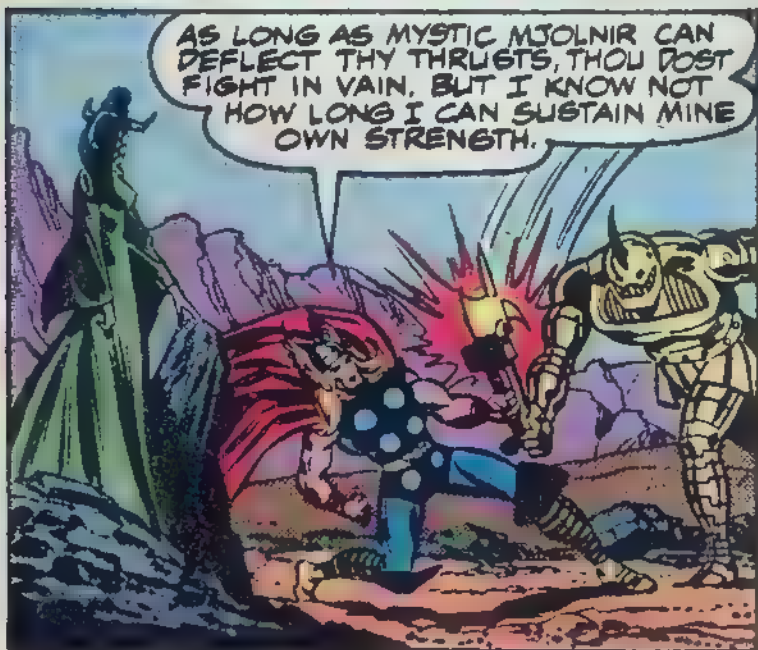
I CANNOT TELL IF THIS FORMIDABLE OPPONENT BE MAN OR MACHINE. EVEN THE MIGHTY Mallet OF MJOLNIR CANNOT MAKE A DENT IN HIS ATTACK.



THE CURSED THUNDER GOD LOSES SOME OF HIS THUNDER! HIS STRENGTH PREVAILS NOT AGAINST MY CREATURE!



AS LONG AS MYSTIC MJOLNIR CAN DEFLECT THY THRUSTS, THOU DOST FIGHT IN VAIN, BUT I KNOW NOT HOW LONG I CAN SUSTAIN MINE OWN STRENGTH.

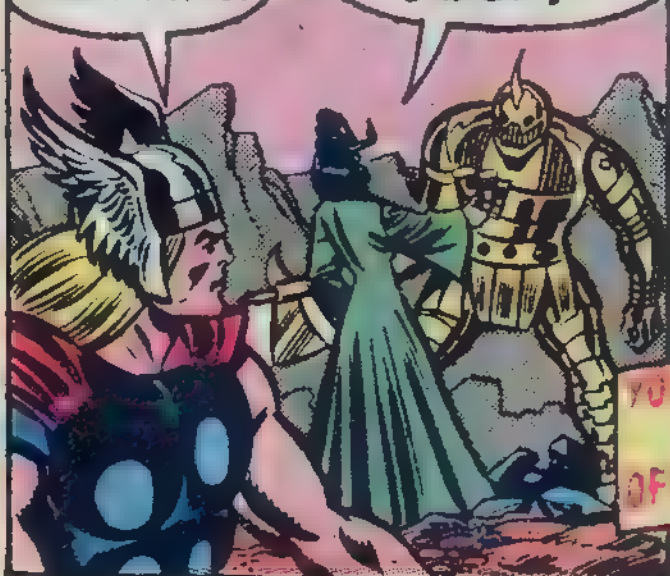


BY THE GODS! MY MYSTIC FORCES INFORM ME THIS IS A BEING WHOSE MIND AND MUSCLE ARE UNDER THE SPELL OF AN EVIL MIND. WE MUST TEMPT HIS SENSES BACK TO REALITY.



BY THUNDER, HE STOPS IN HIS TRACKS AT THE SIGHT OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES.

INDEED. WHAT POWER CAN RESIST THE DELICIOUS, REAL FRUIT FILLING, THE LIGHT, TENDER CRUST?



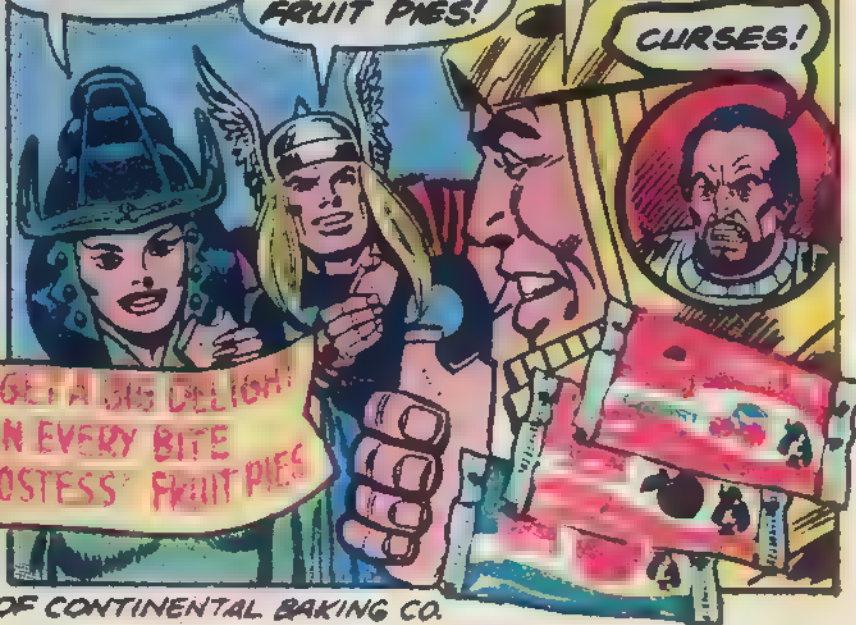
HOSTESS FRUIT PIES HAVE RE-AWAKENED HIS OWN BEING AND DESTROYED THE SPELL.

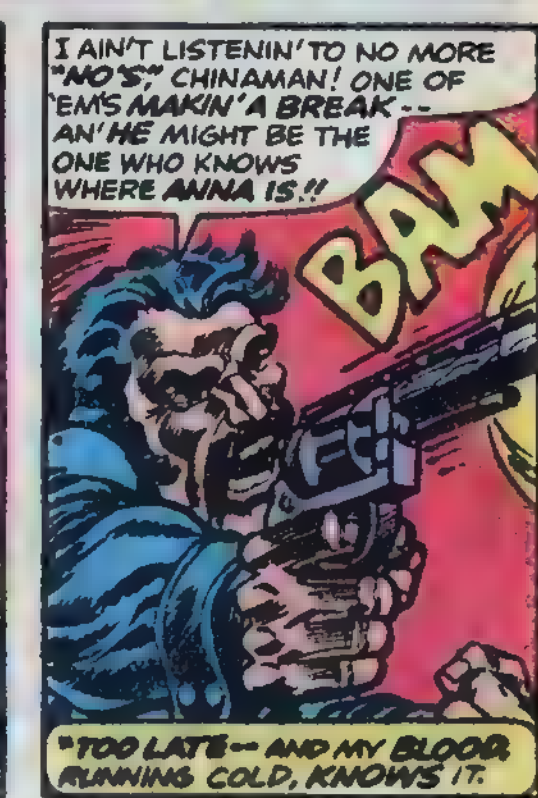
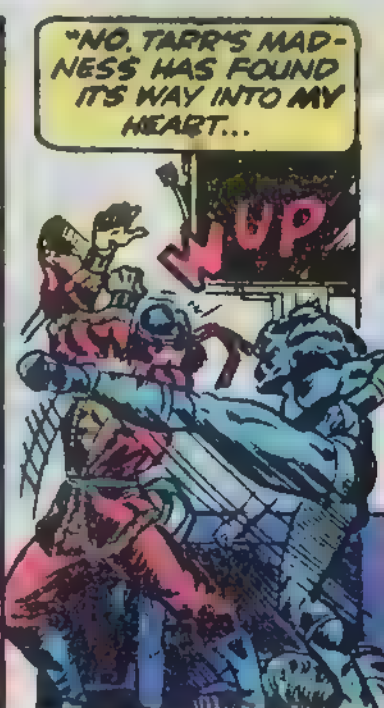
ENJOY THY-SELF! EAT THY FILL OF APPLE, CHERRY AND PEACH FRUIT PIES!

IT IS GOOD TO BE ONE'S OWN MAN AGAIN AND TO ENJOY SUCH GOODNESS!

CURSES!

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"UNLIKE ME, TARR HAS NOT TRULY SEEN... HER."

GET UP! IT'S ONLY YER SHOULDER. TELL ME WHERE YOU PUT--



ANNA?!

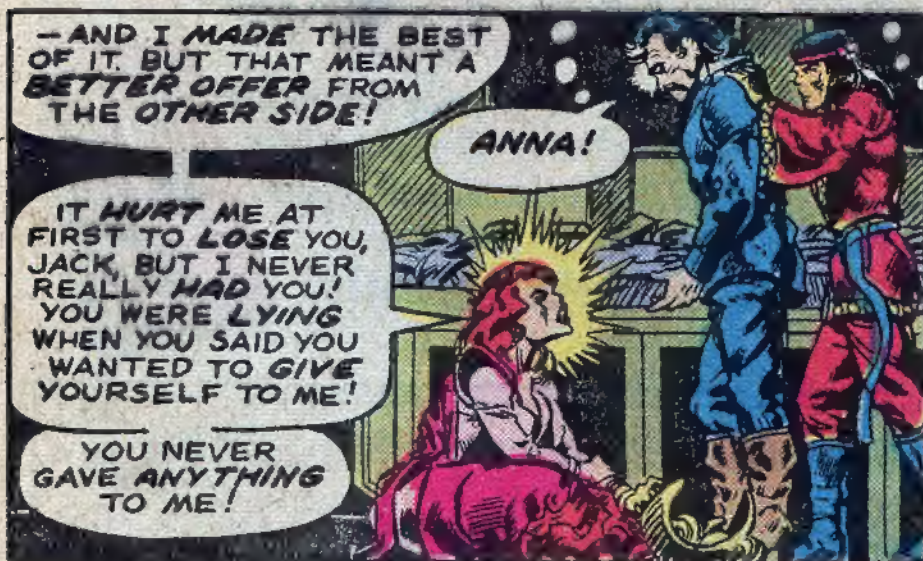
YES... BUT YOU MADE THE CHOICE, JACK TARR.

I WANTED A NORMAL LIFE.



I WANTED YOU! BUT YOU SAID WE HAD IMPORTANT JOBS-- JOBS THAT HAD TO BE DONE.

YOU SAID WE HAD TO PLAY THE DIRTY GAMES-- MAKE THE BEST OF IT! WELL I PLAYED JACK, UNTIL I SAW JUST HOW DIRTY GAMES COULD BE--



--AND I MADE THE BEST OF IT. BUT THAT MEANT A BETTER OFFER FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

ANNA!

IT HURT ME AT FIRST TO LOSE YOU, JACK, BUT I NEVER REALLY HAD YOU! YOU WERE LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GIVE YOURSELF TO ME!

YOU NEVER GAVE ANYTHING TO ME!



YOU GAVE EVERYTHING TO SMITH-- TO YOUR DIRTY JOB-- AND BETWEEN JOBS, YOU TOOK FROM ME!

ANNA!



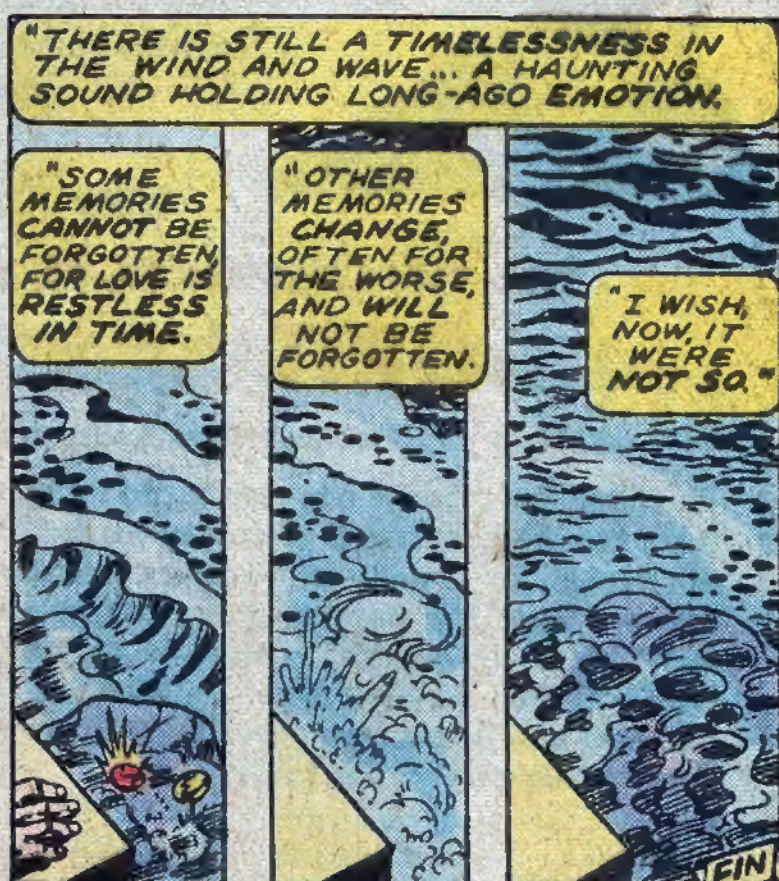
"TIME HAS PASSED MEN FROM THE C.I.A. HAVE COME, SPEAKING OF A CHINESE 'DEFECTOR' WHO IS REALLY A SPY-- ARRESTING ANNA AND THE OTHER DEMONS-- BUT LEAVING TARR ALONE... AND STILL POSSESSED."

SHE DID IT, CHINAMAN GONE FOR GOOD NOW... AND THIS TIME SHE KILLED ALL OF ME.

COME, TARR... THIS PLACE IS NO LONGER YOUR HOME.



YEAH... GUESS IT'S TIME... TO SAY GOODBYE.



"THERE IS STILL A TIMELESSNESS IN THE WIND AND WAVE... A HAUNTING SOUND HOLDING LONG-AGO EMOTION."

"SOME MEMORIES CANNOT BE FORGOTTEN, FOR LOVE IS RESTLESS IN TIME."

"OTHER MEMORIES CHANGE, OFTEN FOR THE WORSE, AND WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN."

"I WISH, NOW, IT WERE NOT SO."

FIN

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